

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives,

I apologize for not being able to speak in person. Please respectfully accept the following as my testimony. I am sure you are aware of the "talking points" of the following bills before, so I will not belabor that point. Instead I will have a common theme, being PRO-active as opposed to being RE-active, and the political ramifications of such action.

Too often as a society we wait for the fatal car accident before we install a traffic light. That is RE-active politics. It is both frustrating and leaves a negative impression with the voting electorate. These three bills before you today offer a wonderful opportunity to be PRO-active and get ahead of the problem.

1) SUPPORT HB 5416 WHICH WOULD BAN GESTATION CRATES: This goes beyond animal cruelty, it is animal torture! They are locked in cages that allow NO movement for entire lives; fed hormones to increase weight and price on market, until legs collapse and/or they go mad. This is a "NO BRAINER" with over 90% public support! Be PRO-active by closing the door now to "warehouse farms" that use this practice. Close the door to them before they inch into CT and let CT be on the forefront of stopping this torture. Don't wait for the photo op of police and/or protective services raiding some warehouse farm where there is rampant abuse and inhumane conditions that will start people asking, "Why?";

2) OPPOSE HB 5080 THAT WOULD ALLOW SUNDAY HUNTING: Again, this is another "NO BRAINER". When has it EVER been politically expedient to support something that only 1% of the population support? NEVER!! Hunters make up 1% of the population; they are also outnumbered 27 to 1 in comparison to those who use the outdoors for something other than hunting (campers, cyclists, hikers, bird watchers, etc.); and are OUTSPENT 7-1 by that same group! Also, I again go back to being PRO-active. Sunday is a very busy weekend day for outdoor activities. Do we need someone to be killed in a hunting accident? Do we need a fatality before we put up the traffic light? What do you say to the family of the inevitable fatality and the media when you had the opportunity to kill this bill and simply turned away?

3) SB 445 W/ ADD ON THAT PETS STORES NOT SELL COMMERCIALY BRED DOGS AND THOSE STILL IN EXISTENCE BE PHASED OUT: We return to the theme of being PRO-active. You know this is right! You've seen the "Puppy Mills" pictures of cages stacked 3 high; feet of dogs cut up; dogs defecating and urinating on those "crated" below them; mistreated, sometimes mean because of no interaction and confinement... this is just wrong on SO MANY DIFFERENT LEVELS! This bill "MUST" have the add-ons mentioned to be effective!! Yes, there are 15 or 16 shops left that continue to support this abuse by selling these abused animals from puppy mills, so lets CLOSE THAT DOOR! Be PRO-active. Say "16 such stores in CT is too much. You want zero now AND in the future". Don't leave that door open to supporting this puppy mill industry that institutionalizes abuse and inhumane treatment. Like with HB 5416, don't wait for the "photo op" to take action. PLEASE, don't wait for the fatality before putting up the traffic light. You know in your heart this is right.

4) POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS: Being humane to animals has NEVER, EVER cost a politician votes! This should be an easy call. It is MORALLY right and costs your constituents NOTHING! It's a political WIN-WIN with NO downside! Do what in your heart you KNOW IS RIGHT. You'll feel better and the electorate will thank you for it.

Thank you distinguished Senators, Representatives, & this Committee for allowing my testimony.

Respectfully,
Michael A. Barile

**96 Silver Lane, Apt. B-1
East Hartford, CT 06118**